

San Jose sees record in permits for backyard homes
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'Think bigger'
Cortese's climate restoration bill clears first hurdle: "We must shift the conversation" – **SEE PAGE 12**

Local wineries: Cut flower roses to grapevines – Solis Winery
SEE PAGE 15



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Almaden Times

APRIL 15 – APRIL 28, 2022 ■ VOL. 35, NO. 8

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Almaden Valley resident Kitty Monahan to receive Lifetime Achievement Award from SCCPA

Saturday, May 21st is an awards night you can attend; don't miss out! 18 years and younger get in free! Buy tickets, sponsor, and or donate using website below

Almaden resident **Kitty Monahan** (pictured) will receive the Preservation Lifetime Achievement Award by the newly formed Santa Clara County Preservation Alliance (SCCPA) on May 21 at History San Jose Park. You can buy tickets to attend this wonderful event!

The Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to Monahan during the SCCPA's recognition of Preservation Month. At the award ceremony, Monahan, who recently stepped down as president of the New Almaden Quicksilver County Park Association, will be recognized for dedication to preservation for many years at the awards ceremony.

In recognition of 2022 National Preservation Month, the Santa Clara County
See PRESERVATION, page 10

EYEWITNESS TO AN INFERNO



Balls of fire could be seen shooting into the sky amidst towers of billowing black smoke at 5:45 p.m., just 18 minutes after the fire was noticed burning in the Blossom Hill Road Home Depot on April 9. No one was injured in the blaze. *Photo by Jeff Baham*

Local Home Depot destroyed in massive five-alarm fire

Everyone safe despite tardy fire alarms, questionable sprinklers

By Jeff Baham
Special to the Times

San Jose's Home Depot #0622, located across the street from Oakridge Mall, was quickly destroyed in a massive five-alarm fire last Saturday afternoon, moving from an employee's verbal instructions to evacuate to the ceiling falling down in flames within the space of minutes.

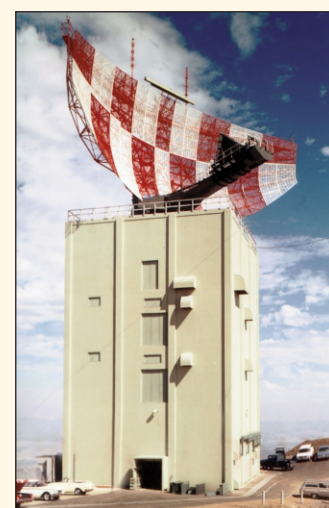
"I was just shopping for paint, looking at color samples, and within five minutes, the whole place was covered in smoke," said Julia Locus, a San Jose resident who was in the



A customer calls 911 and an employee takes stock of the rapidly escalating situation at 5:32 p.m., approximately five minutes after customers were first alerted to leave the premises by cashiers and crew members. At the time of this photo, no fire alarms had yet begun to sound on the property. *Photo by Julia Locus*

Home Depot when it caught on fire at approximately 5:27 p.m. on April 9. "We dropped everything and

walked out, but it really didn't hit me how serious this was until we
See FIRE, page 8



The massive 85-ton oscillating radar sail covered a 250-mile range.
Photo courtesy of Basim Jaber

Almaden Air Force Stations radar tower has been saved for future generations

By Lorraine Gabbert
Senior Staff Writer

After a decade-long effort, the radar tower atop Mount Umunhum has been restored, preserving a piece of history.

The Umunhum Conservancy, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors contributed to saving the historic structure from the former Almaden Air Force Station, an early warning site whose mission was to detect Russian bombers during the Cold War. Today, the 84.5-foot-tall concrete building serves as a landmark, pointing the way home for South San Jose residents.

Sam Drake, cofounder of the Umunhum Conservancy, said at an April 2 ribbon cutting celebration marking the completion of the restoration that he never imagined it would get to this stage.

See UMUNHUM, page 11

SEE OUR LISTINGS OF LOCAL REALTORS, CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING AND HOME IMPROVEMENT ADVERTISEMENTS INSIDE THE BACK COVER

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More Photos and Full Video Available at AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2021 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

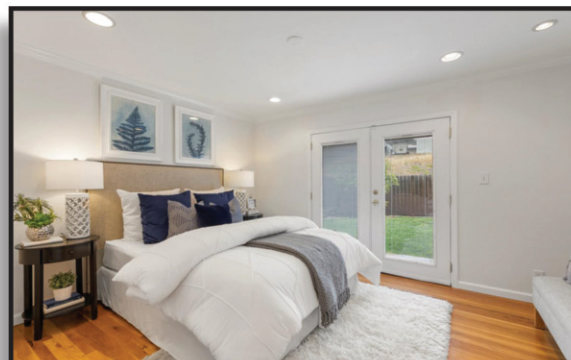
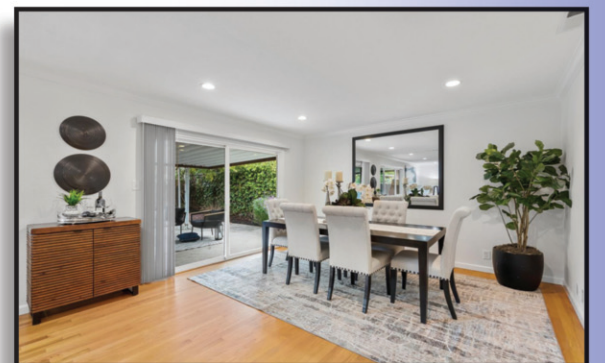
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Wonderfully updated single family home shows pride of ownership throughout, from the welcoming curb appeal anchored by a large front patio that extends the indoor living space outside, to the back covered patio and beautifully manicured rear grounds. The bright open floorplan offers 1,270 square feet of living space, 3 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms, situated on 6,287 square feet of well-manicured grounds.



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Reader moved by recent story

Dear Editor,
God Bless you Kevin!

What a profound article you have written about this elderly lady living on Bus Bench, which touches directly the core of the human soul.

Humanity is thankful to you for observing realizing and respecting the details which are very often overlooked by others while they are racing to reach somewhere or trying to connect to those via social media who are away but same time are missing to be in the present moment in which life is happening.

This story is very, very inspiring! How an elderly lady with no possessions and no shelter is happy whereas so called outwardly successful ones, living in nice houses, with endless choices to cater their senses are going through Depression/Anxiety and with many other mental health issues.

There is a clearly transgression of some spiritual laws which

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



belong to humanity and not to any one religion. In the name of privacy humans have built walls around themselves. We must embrace all living beings in our love with a great reverence to Life. This elderly lady deserves a much better life and blessed are those who are making an effort to make this happen.

Neerja Sharma
San Jose



Someone commandeered a Starbucks umbrella so the sprinklers wouldn't hit the back of the lady living on the bench at night.

Kenneth Cavers of Almaden Valley named to MSOE Honors List for Winter Quarter '22

Kenneth Cavers (right) of Almaden Valley has been named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Honors List for the 2022 Winter Quarter.



Cavers is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.

Carvers is a member of the MSOE Club Hockey Team.

Undergraduate students who have earned a GPA of 3.20 or higher (out of 4.0) for this quarter are on the Honors List.

Milwaukee School of Engineering (www.msOE.edu) is the university of choice for those seeking an inclusive community of experiential learners driven to solve the complex challenges of today and tomorrow. The independent, non-profit university has about 2,700 students and was founded in 1903. MSOE offers bachelor's and master's degrees in engineering, business and nursing.

Valley Currents

cur | rent (adj.) *Present, topical, timely, newsworthy.* (n.) *Movement in a definite direction, a flow.*



A backyard home, or accessory dwelling unit, in San Jose's Hensley neighborhood. Photo courtesy of Flora Moreno de Thompson.

San Jose sees record in permits for backyard homes

By **Jana Kadah**

Article courtesy of
San José Spotlight

San Jose residents are building mini homes in their backyards and bringing families close together.

Despite economic hardships related to COVID-19 and supply chain delays, 2021 broke records for residents who want to add another home on their property. Permit requests for accessory dwelling units (ADU) reached 804, with 464 permits issued last year. The hot pace is continuing through the first quarter of 2022, with 215 permits requested and 153 granted.

The primary reasons are twofold. Residents want to live near family members or have rental income, said city officials and ADU builders. It is also a relatively quick and affordable option for additional housing. Although prices and timelines vary depending on supplies and size, the average cost is around \$300,000 and takes one to two years to complete.

San Jose has been issuing ADU permits since 2015, but the numbers ramped up in 2019 when the city launched its ADU permit program. The program is led by an "ADU Ally" who guides residents through the application process. "It's a very, very popular project to submit and apply for because of the autonomy you have," said Sarah Shull, the city's ADU Ally, noting anecdotally most applicants wanted an additional space for family.

San Jose has built a few hundred below-market homes since 2018, but is still far short of its goal to build 25,000 units—10,000 affordable—by 2023. It would've needed to build 5,000 units since 2017, but has only averaged 2,400.

San Jose resident Flora Moreno de Thompson initially built an ADU

in her home in the Hensley neighborhood in anticipation of her parents living there. While she waits for them to retire, she has rented the ADU out to a college student and on Airbnb, hosted family and friends and used it as a home office.

"Economically speaking we're getting a really good value for the space," de Thompson told San José Spotlight. "I have no regrets. It was a really easy, painless process."

A partial housing solution

In 2020, ADU applications nearly doubled from the previous year when the state passed legislation that closed loopholes and simplified the process, said John Geary, CEO and co-founder of ADU construction company Abodu. Geary and Shull emphasized it's not just a bonus for local homeowners, but also an important tool to increase housing in San Jose.

"At its core, I really hope ADUs are on a path toward leveling out housing affordability," Geary said. "The data isn't there yet to show a significant impact, but it helps bring the numbers up. More housing means more affordability."

Geary started developing ADUs in San Jose before expanding to all of California and Washington. He said San Jose is a leader in ADU development, not only in sheer numbers, but also in the city's permitting process. The pre-approved vendors program lists specific companies residents can hire, which expedites approvals. He also pointed to the city's website that breaks down the process into simple steps.

"In other cities, these permits can take months. In San Jose, a pre-approved vendor can get it approved in a day," Geary told San José Spotlight. Geary said San Jose does have fairly high permitting fees, averaging \$5,000, despite relaxed permitting restrictions over

the past few years, such as providing short-term 0% interest loans.

"San Jose is still the one that our team looks to as a model jurisdiction," Geary said. "It's the (city) that is getting it done right and gets it done fast with homeowners in mind."

Rush to build

District 6, which houses Willow Glen, has been one of the most active areas for ADU applications. In 2021, the district received 159 applications with 97 approved. This year, it has received 34 applications and 30 have already been approved.

Councilmember Dev Davis, who represents District 6, said this is largely because the lots are bigger and because it's a desirable place to live. "Many families are part of the sandwich generation, where they're taking care of older family members or (providing) independent space for their kids," Davis told San José Spotlight. "It strikes a great balance, as opposed to SB 9, which floods a neighborhood with three times as many people."

She said ADUs are a much better option than state Senate Bill 9, which allows homeowners to split their properties to develop more housing. SB 9 has been off to a slow start with no local applications submitted as of February. Geary said that is likely to change in the next few years as the state and local governments improve policies and practices.

"ADUs didn't take off until 2020 when the state did a cleanup bill," Geary said. "We're in that same stage with SB 9 right now. The general framework is really strong and important, but jurisdictions are finding ways to make it very challenging to utilize it. So over the next two, three years here, we're gonna see some of those challenges be cleaned up at the state level."

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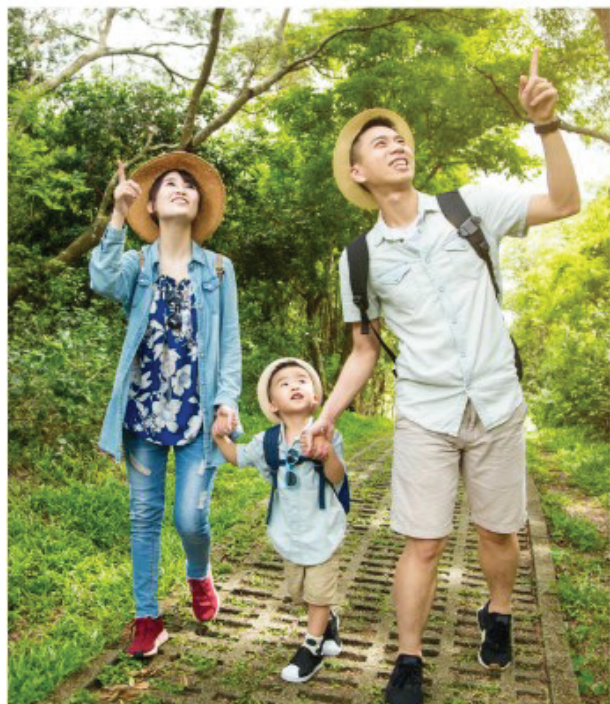
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Join us for our second annual:

Virtual 5k Art & Wine Community Event



June 26 to July 3

This is a fun family event that will allow any community to participate. Follow a suggested route or go on your own. Runners, walkers, hikers can create their 5K anywhere, from an indoor treadmill to walking the dog, or running along the beach. With your registration receive a sponsor t-shirt and swag bag of goodies!

* 100% of proceeds are donated as grants to struggling charities and schools, and merit-based scholarships for high school students.

For more information
www.AlmadenWomen.org



Join our community of involved women!

The Almaden Valley Women's Club is currently accepting new members. We are a committed group of women who enjoy having fun while giving back to our community. We come together to volunteer as a group, to socialize with walks and fun activities and to put on annual community events, raising funds for local area non-profit organizations.

If you live in the San Jose area and are interested in learning more about us, please visit our website: <https://www.almadenwomen.org>



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Times **Notebook**

Bay Area Women Leaders Honored at YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley 38th Annual Tribute to Women Awards

YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley will honor the outstanding women leaders at the 38th Annual Tribute to Women Awards, presented by Cisco.

More than 40 executive and emerging woman leaders from throughout the Bay Area will be recognized during a virtual event Thursday, May 12, 2022, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Registration to the event is free at bit.ly/TributeAwards22 and viewers can join from anywhere.

The Awards recognize the achievements of women who have excelled in their fields and have made significant contributions to the Bay Area through their dedication and leadership. “Although every Tribute to Women Awards program is special, we feel especially proud to honor this year’s Honorees,” said Adriana Caldera Boroffice, CEO, YWCA Golden Gate Silicon Valley. “We know that women have borne the brunt of negative career impacts over the course of the pandemic, so to have the opportunity to shine a light on 43 women leaders across the Bay Area is truly exciting—not to mention this year’s group of Honorees include many women who have made significant impacts in local COVID response efforts.”

To date more than 1,500 women have been recognized through the Tribute to Women Awards for their outstanding achievements in the workplace and beyond.

A complete list of the 2022 Tribute to Women Awards Honorees is available at bit.ly/TributeAwards22.

Report: 2022's Best and Worst States for Teachers

Since COVID-19 hit, teachers in America are now burnt out due to the recent teacher shortages in our country’s public school system; 55% of them say they’re ready to leave the profession earlier than they planned.

After conducting an in-depth analysis, the scholarship website Scholaroo has released its 2022’s Best and Worst States for Teachers. This study is pertinent as its one of the first to dissect which states favor or discourage educators in a post-pandemic world.

Based on the analysis of 42 metrics organized into 5 key indicators — Career Accessibility, Salary & Compensation, Work Benefits, Work Environment, and Student Performance — the 2022 Rankings showed that California ranks #21 in the nation.

2022 Best States for Teachers: California Rankings

- #21: Overall
- #2: Salary & Compensation
- #30: Work Benefits
- #36: Student Performance
- #38: Work Environment
- #44: Career Accessibility

For the complete 2022 rankings and methodology, please visit: www.scholaroo.com/best-states-for-teachers

California labeled the best state for camping

With fresh air, nature’s music, and fire-roasted food, few things are more relaxing than a camping trip with your favorite folks.

But where you pitch your tent (or park your RV) can make or break your night under the stars.

To mark the start of camping season, Lawn Love ranked 2022’s Best States for Camping based on 17 key factors.

How does California stack up?

California’s Rank in Some Key Metrics (1



- = Best)
- Number of Campsites - 1st
 - Variety of Campsite Activities - 1st
 - Average RV Rental Cost - 13th
 - Number of Campsites with Water - 1st
- Number of Camping Supply Stores - 2nd
 - Phone Coverage - 44th
- Our full ranking and analysis can be found here: <https://lawnlove.com/blog/best-states-camping/>



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Times **Cover Story**

Fast moving fire: within six minutes, the lazy afternoon parking lot of the Home Depot on Blossom Hill Road became center stage for a raging inferno, which burned into the next afternoon. *Photos by Jeff Baham*

Fire

Continued from page 1

turned around and looked back inside once we were out. Fire was falling from the ceiling, and then I knew we've got to get out of here."

The fire quickly made national and international news reports, partly because weather satellites were able to detect the fire's intense heat signature from outer space.

"What used to be aisles of products are now just a field of debris and ash," said newscaster Terry McSweeney on an NBC affiliate newscast about the event. "The roof collapsed."

Fire alarm didn't sound immediately

Though all customers and employees were evacuated from the building safely, no fire alarms sounded until well after the ceiling was falling apart in flames, and both customers and employees report no sprinklers were observed to activate, though the San Jose Fire Department reports that the store did have sprinklers which "appeared to work," according to an NBC news report. But witnesses report otherwise.

"I never saw any sprinklers while the fire was spreading," Locus reports. "The first audible fire alarms didn't sound until parts of the ceiling were crashing down in flames."

Employee: Sprinklers didn't work

"I'm an associate with the Blossom Hill store, and the sprinklers never went off," said Twitter user @OfficalWild-Wolf, who represented themselves online as an employee working during the blaze. "The fire started in aisle 47 where the insulation is. We're not sure how the insulation caught on fire."

According to the San Jose Fire Department, the five-alarm fire seemed to start in the lumber section of the store, though their investigation is ongoing and it is unclear how they made the determination of origin within hours of the start of the fire, before investigators could enter the property. No suspicious origins are suspected as of press time.

"When we were shopping for paint, I heard an employee tell someone that they think they have a fire," Locus said. "Then I realized that there was a light, sweet wood-burning smell in the air, like a campfire. Within moments, the employees were yelling 'Fire! Everyone get out!'"

Fierce orange fireballs

Within half an hour, columns of thick, toxic black smoke rose hundreds of feet into the sky, punctuated by fierce orange fireballs shooting into the early evening dusk. A trail of smoke started to head south for miles, which was visible all over the south Bay Area. News and law enforcement helicopters began to hover as the fifth alarm was announced and fire departments from all over the area responded to the blaze.



A firetruck races down Blossom Hill Road on the wrong side, fighting oncoming traffic in an effort to defeat the log-jam of cars surrounding the Home Depot parking lot. *Photo by Jeff Baham*

The primary goal of firefighters was containment, as the debris was already beginning to rain down on neighboring properties when they arrived. Adjacent storefronts (including Wagly, a pet hospital) were threatened by the flame and smoke.

Although firefighters were still extinguishing hot spots



Thick, toxic plumes of smoke were visible throughout the southern portion of San Jose. *Photo by Jeff Baham*

into late Sunday afternoon, the fire was successfully contained to just the Home Depot property. The amount of smoke and water damage to neighboring properties still needs to be determined, however. It was reported that all of the pets from Wagly were safely transported away from the fire, though some witnesses note that a few animals may have run away in the process. Also, at least one residential property behind the Home Depot had a fence catch fire from floating debris, which was quickly extinguished by the neighborhood residents. The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office observed at least two nearby fires from their helicopter. Whether or not they began from the Home Depot debris is unknown – but brisk winds make it a distinct possibility.

Wind, other conditions contribute to blaze

Windy conditions may have contributed to the fast growth of the fire, according to fire officials. "You could feel a brisk breeze in the Home Depot when we walked in," Locus said. "It was striking – I even mentioned it to my husband as we walked to the paint department, that I wish I had brought my sweater. The air was really moving strongly inside the building."

Complicating factors hinder firefighters

Other complicating factors were the amount of heavily flammable and dangerous materials contained in a typical Home Depot store, including lumber, plastic lawn furniture, toxic chemicals, propane tanks, and other such materials. Local residents reported hearing loud explosive bursts as the fire continued to rage. Fire officials also reported to NBC News that the cinderblock wall at the back of the store property precluded them from entering the location from the rear, adding another complication to the situation.

"I saw a mother with her little girl in the store, and when we were all outside and I saw them get out safely too, I was so relieved," Locus recalled. "We all just moved out quickly without shoving or panicking. Since there were no fire alarms sounding, I don't know if anyone really knew how serious this was."

"There was a light haze in the air, and employees walking out who also weren't sure how bad it was," Locus said. "Once we were out in front of the store, we all turned around to look inside. But when fire started falling from the ceiling and the first giant cloud of thick grey smoke rolled out the front doors, we all knew it was definitely time to leave."

Locus had plans to eat dinner at nearby El Maestro on Blossom Hill Road, but the smoke was so ominous that she decided to just go eat in Milpitas to escape the rapidly-closing roads and thick traffic caused by the arriving first responders. "I'm just so glad that everyone got out, and no one was injured," Locus said. "It really is a miracle. Thank you, Lord."

Times **Community News****CAREER COLUMN****Are you blaming the lettuce?**By **Angela Copeland**

I recently read a quote by Thich Nhat Hanh that resonated with me. He said, "When you plant lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well. It may need fertilizer, or more water, or less sun. You never blame the lettuce."



This quote appeals to the gardener in me. When a tomato plant is not doing well, you look at the underlying conditions that may cause it to fail. You measure the amount of water in the soil, or you evaluate the nutrients you are giving to the plant. There is almost always an underlying issue. In the same way, this lesson could be taken into the workplace.

Too often, people who would otherwise be successful at work are failing. They are smart and capable. They care about the work they're doing. And yet, something isn't coming together.

As a manager, you may look at a troubled employee and feel frustration. You may blame them for what you perceive to be as goofing off, or not caring about their work. Yet, this is rarely the solution. If you're willing to listen, there is almost always something else going on. That said, it is important to enter these conversations with care and with an

open mind. Getting real feedback involves trust.

If an employee will let you in, they will share specific details that are often within our control as leaders. It's possible that the person does not feel they have the autonomy needed to make decisions. Or, they do not know the overall company vision and goals. They may be having a difficult time understanding how their work fits into the larger picture. It could be the case that the employee feels they have competing priorities that are difficult to prioritize. Perhaps the employee struggles with change. Or, maybe they don't feel that their strengths are valued at work.

Whatever the reason, there is very likely an actual reason. Few people want to get up each day and feel useless at work. Not everyone is ambitious or highly career oriented, but most people do have some sense of pride in what they do. No one wants to fail.

If you have a problem employee, it can be easy to blame them. Many managers are happy to put someone on the company off-ramp at the first sign of problems. But, it is very often a mistake. Talk to any human resources manager. They will share how often they see managers get rid of good people because they're unable to look in the mirror.

It could be argued that finding a new employee is significantly more work than successfully retaining an existing one. Every employee has needs that must be met in order for them to perform well. Whether it's a current employee or one you'll hire in the future, don't blame the lettuce.

Angela Copeland, a leadership and career expert, can be reached at copelandcoach-ing.com.

Report: Top 10 Most Family-friendly National Parks

If you're looking to head out on a whole-family adventure, there's a very good chance that you're considering visiting one of the US' 63 national parks.

But which are the best to visit with kids?

To find out, The Family Vacation Guide has analyzed and ranked each of the country's national parks against a number of family-friendly factors including kid-friendly hotels, walking trails, attractions and family sightseeing landmarks - and Yosemite is revealed in the top 10.

You can see their research here: www.thefamilyvacationguide.com/outdoors/best-national-parks-for-kids-in-the-us

Top 10 most family-friendly national parks

Rank	National Park	Kid Friendly
1	Yellowstone, Wyoming	9.62
2	Great Smoky Mountains	9.20
3	Rocky Mountain, Colorado	9.13
4	Yosemite, California	8.59
5	Grand Canyon, Arizona	8.46
6	Glacier, Montana	8.10
7	Acadia, Maine	8.01
8	Death Valley, California	7.78
9	Grand Teton, Wyoming	7.75
10	Mount Rainier, Washington	7.66

The research also shows that Yellowstone park in Wyoming takes top position, with a kid-friendly score of 9.62/10. The park is host to 37 landmarks for you to take your child to see and has 77 kid-friendly walking trails and 21 other kid-friendly trails. There are a total of 78 attractions for your child to enjoy too, meaning you can make multiple trips to this beautiful park without your child getting bored.

The national park with the most landmarks for family sight-seeing is the Grand Canyon, Arizona, with over 40 landmarks to explore. This iconic park also has 54 kids attractions (the highest of all parks) and 28 child-friendly walking trails.

Denali national park in Alaska has the highest number of family-friendly hotels, so, if you want picturesque scenery and a perfect hotel, this could be your ideal trip. With 31 kids attractions and 7 child-friendly walks, it could be a winner!

If you and the family love to go walking, then the Great Smoky Mountains in Tennessee is the number 1 spot, with almost 50 kid-friendly walking trails, so the entire family can enjoy. There are also 26 'other' kid friendly trails to take part in.

Other parks which make the top 20 include Zion, Joshua Tree, Capitol Reef, Olympic and Big Bend.

You can see the full research and where every park ranks here: www.thefamilyvacationguide.com/outdoors/best-national-parks-for-kids-in-the-us

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The Santa Clara County
Preservation Alliance presents

Preservation Awards Night

Saturday May 21, 7pm
at History San Jose Park

Preservation

Continued from page 1

Historic Heritage Commission, the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, the Preservation Action Council of San Jose, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, and History San Jose have joined together to host an Awards Night honoring individuals and organizations who have made significant historical and cultural preservation contributions throughout Santa Clara County.

The SCCPA group consists of leaders from the Santa Clara County Historic Heritage Commission, the San Jose Historic Landmarks Commission, the Preservation Action Council of San Jose, the California Pioneers of Santa Clara County, and History San Jose.

Program

The first half hour of the evening event will give guests and preservation enthusiasts an opportunity to meet, share information, exchange ideas, and get to know the 'Who's Who' of Santa Clara County's historical preservationists. Tables will be available for groups to display and share information. Live music and county historical movie clips will provide a pleasant ambience. The remaining 90 minutes will be a fun, celebratory time, hosted by a professional MC, of award presentations. Music will be provided by the Stargeezers. Videos and slides will feature some amazing historical scenes of Santa Clara Valley's yesteryears.

National Preservation Month

Preservation Month began as National Preservation Week in 1973. In 2005, the National Trust extended the celebration to the entire month of May and declared it Preservation Month to provide an even greater opportunity to celebrate the diverse and unique heritage of our country's cities and states.

The intent of the SCCPA Awards Night is:

- To recognize individuals, businesses,

and organizations in the community who have made outstanding contributions to historic preservation.

- To showcase exemplary preservation throughout the community that may serve as inspiration for future preservation.
- To encourage preservation of historic homes or buildings that may prevent future demolition of historic properties.
- To educate the community on the merits of historic architecture and preservation.
- To share ideas and projects various preservation groups throughout the county.

Frequently asked questions

Q: Will parking be available?

A: Yes, free parking is available in History San Jose Park's parking lot off Phelan Road for the first 100 cars. There is plenty of additional paid parking less than a half block from History Park at the end of Phelan Road.

Q: Will food and beverages be available?

A: Yes, food and beverages will be available for sale.

Q: How much is admission and how can I purchase tickets?

A: Admission is \$15 for adults (under 18 are free) and tickets can be purchased on the website listed below. Guests will be checked in upon arrival.

Sponsors will be promoted on the evening's program as well as our big screen, and tickets will be provided per sponsorship level: \$100/3 tickets, \$250/6 tickets, \$500/9 tickets.

Tickets

SCCPA Preservation Awards Night – Saturday, May 21st, 7:00 p.m. \$15 General Admission; under 18 Free. To purchase tickets, visit: <https://www.preservation.org/events/sccpa-preservation-awards-night>

To learn more about SCCPA, call Tere Johnson at (408) 406-3001 or Bill Hare at (408) 262-1776.

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A man in a dark suit, light blue shirt, and striped tie is giving a thumbs up gesture. He is wearing a watch on his left wrist. The background is a bright, out-of-focus office setting.

Times **Cover Story**

Umunhum

Continued from page 1

"This has been a long, complicated journey," Drake said. "It was an amazing community effort."

In 1986, Midpen purchased Almaden Air Force Station from the U.S. government for \$260,000 to develop a system of trails. Following the passing of Measure AA in 2016, a \$12 per parcel tax to fund Bay Area habitat restoration, and a \$3.2 million federal investment to clean up area contaminants, Midpen demolished about 80 Air Force buildings and planned to remove the radar tower. Drake and Basim Jaber, co-founded the Umunhum Conservancy to save it.

In Sept. 2017, a previous ribbon cutting ceremony was held to mark the opening of the peak to the public. Prior Councilmember Johnny Khamis said at the ceremony that he wanted the monument to remain for generations to come.

"We shouldn't be burying or demolishing our history," he said.

Unfortunately, the area surrounding the tower was closed off a month after the opening due to lead paint falling off the building.

In 2019, Midpen hired an engineering firm to renovate the tower. Rainwater dripped from the roof and was pushed through the walls by strong winds. Rusted rebar broke through concrete, handrails were missing from staircases, there were gaping holes in the floor, an intrusion by wildlife and contaminants like lead and asbestos.

In addition to the building being fully repaired, it was painted warm, dark gray to match its early appearance.

"Now people who have stared up at it all their lives can come up and touch it," Jaber said.

Drake said without the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors granting the tower's historic status and the "unstoppable force of Basim," there would be an empty field where the tower stands today. The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously in May 2016 to add the radar tower to the County's Heritage Resource Inventory, a designation making it immune from demolition as long as the building is in good repair.

From 1958-1980, up to 125 service personnel and their families lived in a community along the 3,486-foot peak of Mount Umunhum, complete with a movie theater, swimming pool and bowling alley. They also experienced 100 mile per hour winds and snow in winter.



The radar tower at the top of Mount Umunhum has been a local landmark for generations. Now it is approachable by the public. *Photo by Lorraine Gabbert*

Utilizing a massive, long-range radar developed by General Electric which covered a 250-mile range, the United States Air Force 682nd Radar Squadron scanned the skies until 1980, when new satellite technology rendered the radar obsolete.

The concrete tower is 63' x 63' and 84.5 feet tall. The antenna reflector "sail" was 120 ft wide and 45 feet tall and weighed 85.5 tons. It could withstand an atomic bomb up to a mile away, Jaber said.

Jack Smith, the son of the base's medic, who lived at the Air Force base in 1971, said it was a great place to be as a kid and he never tired of riding his minibike on the fire roads. Airmen took him and other teens under their wings teaching them to repair cars and to repel.

Charles Berls, a Umunhum Conservancy boardmember, recalls seeing the radar antenna in 1976.

"It was a warm feeling knowing that was protecting us from the Russians," Berls said. "It's so important for young people to understand our history so that we have perspective for the future. You can't replace things like this. It could be a national monument."

Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, board president of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, views the radar tower as a tribute "to a time in history that can't be forgotten." She said her 92-year-old father, whose Naval crew provided the last tank of fuel for bombers flying into Russia during the beginning of the Cold War, was deeply touched when he was able to see this slice of history and how beautifully it's been

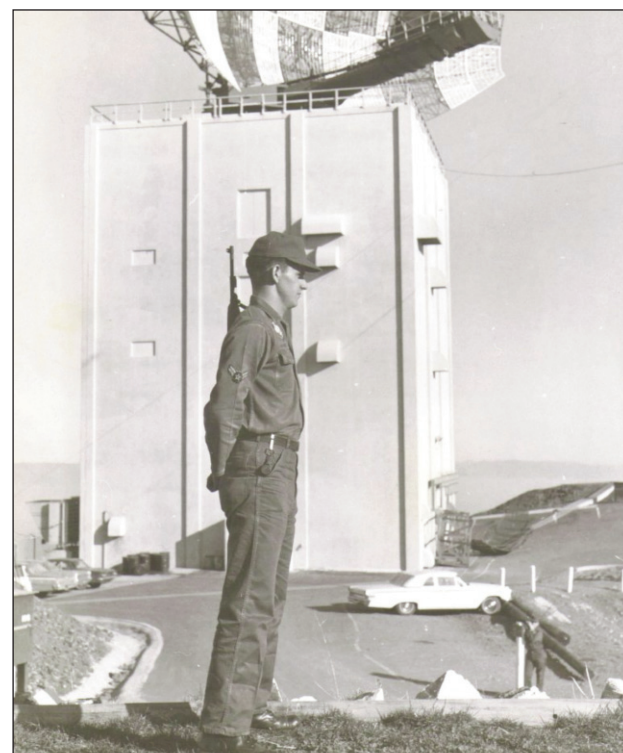
commemorated.

Santa Clara County Supervisor Mike Wasserman, who made the motion in 2016 to declare the tower historic, said at this month's ceremony that its presence is fantastic for the community and a great memory for veterans.

"Since 1962, all eyes around the South Bay have been drawn to the cube, a rare relic of local, military history," he said. "Preserving our past takes vision, effort, and perhaps most importantly, funding."

Wasserman recognized Jaber and boardmembers of the Umunhum Conservancy and its donors for their efforts as well as Midpen for the radar tower's necessary and appropriate makeover. He said visitors to the radar tower today can take in the stunning view, but during the Cold War years, the armed forces stationed there kept guard over the west coast as the first lines of defense.

"It's comforting to know future generations will not only be able to enjoy this place," he said, "but will learn a piece of our history through this landmark."



From 1958-1980, up to 220 service personnel and their families called the peak of Mount Umunhum home.

Photo courtesy of Basim Jaber.



At left: On April 2, a ribbon cutting celebration including members of the Umunhum Conservancy, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors marked the completion of the restoration of the radar tower. Above: (l to r): Cofounders of the Umunhum Conservancy **Basim Jaber** and **Sam Drake** receive a commemorative photo from **Brian Malone**, assistant general manager at Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District. *Photos by Lorraine Gabbert.*

Times **Local News**

Cortese’s climate restoration bill clears first hurdle ‘We must shift the conversation and think bigger’

Senator Dave Cortese’s (D-Silicon Valley) bill, SB 1297, cleared its first hurdle March 28 after passing the California Senate Environmental Quality Committee.

SB 1297 will ensure California takes a leadership role in advancing climate restoration by taking steps to minimize embodied carbon and maximize carbon sequestration in the built

environment.

“We must shift the conversation and think bigger,” Cortese said. “California can and must advance both climate neutrality and carbon restoration objectives, which together will require achieving and maintaining net-negative emissions as soon as possible, by leveraging a tremendous, but largely unexplored, opportunity to sequester carbon in our built environment. We are expanding methods in buildings and construction projects that can create and maintain high-quality jobs for California workers.”

A look at creating new composition of building materials to help the environment

Despite high greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) impacts from building materials and the sig-

nificant potential they offer to advance California’s GHG goals and climate restoration, little has been done to address these topics in California. SB 1297 will begin to address this important gap by requiring the state to develop a plan and recommendations to minimize embodied carbon and maximize carbon sequestration in building materials.

Embodied carbon, or GHG emissions associated with producing and using building materials, accounts for at least 11 percent of global carbon emissions.

New breakthroughs are here

“Through relatively recent innovations, it is now possible to store CO2 in the built environment, including roads and buildings. Minimizing embodied carbon and maximizing car-

bon sequestration in the built environment represents an outstanding opportunity for California to take a leadership role in advancing climate restoration,” says Rick Wayman, CEO of the Foundation for Climate Restoration.

At the recent UN Climate Conference, California joined an effort to accelerate innovation, investment, and market development for low-carbon building materials. The federal government also recently announced that in 2022, the General Services Administration (GSA) will require contractors to disclose the embodied carbon of building materials for new building and major modernization contracts.

For more information, contact Tara Sreekrishnan, Office of Senator Dave Cortese at 408 480 7833 or tara.sreekrishnan@sen.ca.gov.

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Times **Arts**

Conductor Tatsuya Shimono cemented his international reputation as a conductor by winning First Prize at the 47th Besançon International Competition in 2001.



Symphony San Jose presents Beethoven's Emperor Piano Concerto May 7 and 8, 2022

*Conducted by Tatsuya Shimono
with soloist Jon Nakamatsu*

Symphony San Jose presents Beethoven's Emperor Piano Concerto Saturday, May 7 at 8:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 8 at 2:30 p.m. at the California Theater, 345 South First Street in downtown San Jose.

Jon Nakamatsu is coming back to the beautiful California Theater to perform Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5. Often considered the "most important piano concerto ever written" the Emperor is filled with innovation, looking forward to 19th century pianos not yet conceived. It was to be Beethoven's last.

The program opens in a mood of enchantment, with Ravel's elegance, delicacy, shimmering colors and expressive melodies on full display with his Mother Goose Suite and Pavane Pur Une Infante Défunte (Pavane for a Dead Princess). The mood shifts dramatically with Stravinsky's brief, brilliant Symphony. Written just after WWII, it has the intensity of a newsreel.

The Program:

Rafel: Mother Goose Suite

Ravel: Pavane Pur Une Infante Défunte (Pavane for a Dead Princess)

Stravinsky: Symphony In Three Movements

Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5 - Emperor

SINGLE TICKET PRICES: \$55 - \$115

BOX OFFICE: 408.286.2600 or www.symphonysanjose.org

Or visit the Box Office between 10am and 5pm, Monday through Friday at 325 South First Street in downtown San Jose, between San Carlos and San Salvador Streets just one-half block from the California Theatre.

Tatsuya Shimono: Tatsuya Shimono cemented his international reputation as a conductor by winning First Prize at the 47th Besançon International Competition in 2001. Since then he has guest conducted major orchestras in Japan and abroad. He received great acclaim for his debuts in subscription

concerts with the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra in 2009, and then in March 2010, made his debut with the Stuttgart Radio Symphony Orchestra. In 2006 he was appointed Resident Conductor of the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra.

Jon Nakamatsu: A native of California, Jon Nakamatsu claimed a distinguished place on the international musical scene in June, 1997 when he was named the Gold Medalist of the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, the only American to have achieved this distinction since 1981. A former high school German teacher, he became a popular hero overnight in the highly traditional medium of classical music. He has performed in important venues in Asia, Europe, America and the Caribbean as soloist and composer.

PHOTO CREDITS: Photos of conductor Tatsuya Shimono and pianist Jon Nakamatsu are courtesy of the artists and Symphony San Jose.



Jon Nakamatsu claimed a distinguished place on the international musical scene in June, 1997 when he was named the Gold Medalist of the Tenth Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

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We have three programs to help our neighbors in need

Critical Repairs

Income-eligible owner-occupied properties (single family or mobile homes) are eligible for critical home repairs that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable.

Rebuilding Days

Our Rebuilding Day program provides major and minor repairs and renovations resulting in life-changing improvements for the homeowners and organizations served.

Safe At Home

Safe at Home program addresses home repair and maintenance issues that may otherwise present a safety risk or that limit access to or within the home.

Ways to get involved

Volunteers Join us, safely, for Rebuilding Day, April 17 & 24, 2021, as an individual volunteer or with your corporate or community group.

Contractors We work with contractors that possess CA contractor specialty (Class C) in painting, plumbing, HVAC, roofing or electrical.

Donate Sign up to sponsor an upcoming neighbor in need build or donate at www.rtsv.org today.

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Analysis: Top four most popular American restaurants in San Jose

Liz Fe Lifestyle website has issued its analysis of the 4 most popular American restaurants in San Jose, CA.

San Jose California, Spanish for Saint Joseph, is in the center of the Santa Clara Valley and known for its affluent population and innovation because of its home to many major global tech companies. With such a rich atmosphere, it's no wonder San Jose is home to beautiful architecture, visual art, and performing arts, all of which will enrich your life.

Cuisine in San Jose is no different. The city is swimming in a variety of delicious food, including American Cuisine. Thanks to our list of top five American restaurants in San Jose, you'll have time to taste that rich food your palette craves next time you're in San Jose.

4. Henry's Hi Life

<https://template.citycheers.com/96613>

Henry's Hi Life has been going strong since 1960 with no plans of stopping soon. It offers dinner entrees with most of them featuring its famous and delicious steaks. If you don't feel like dinner, they have a lunch menu you can also check out.

3. 3rd and Bourbon

<https://www.3rdandbourbon.com>

3rd and Bourbon are a classy bar and restaurant open Tuesday through Saturday

starting from 4 PM until 10 or 11 PM depending on the day. Their menu is full of delicious entrees, burgers and sandwiches, and dessert if you find yourself with a sweet tooth. If you come between 4 and 7, then you'll be able to enjoy happy hour with some cheap and delicious drinks.

2. Funny Farm Restaurant

<https://funnyfarmrestaurant.square.site>

The Funny Farm Restaurant is open six days a week, normally from 10:30AM to 8PM. It's a casual eatery with such signature items as UFO burger, Monte Cristo, and the Beef Short Rib Poutine, all of which were featured on the show Man V. Food. You can even enjoy a Mexican coke with your meat, featuring real sugar Coca-Cola from Mexico. Editor's Note: A new Funny Farm location has opened up at the shopping center on San Felipe Rd. at Yerba Buena. Check website for more information.

1. Bill's Cafe

www.billscafe.com

Bill's Café has been in business for over 30 years and offers breakfast, lunch, and cocktails for the San Jose community. There are not only classic breakfasts on the menu but also what they call creative specialties. Both are sure to keep you coming back to our number one spot to eat.

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Cut flower roses to grapevines: Solis Winery

By Denelle Fedor

While sitting on the deck overlooking the acres of incredible views of vineyards, sipping Baciemi, the unique white wine Solis Winery is known for, one may not know that at one time, some of the acreage was once home to Gilroy's own Vanni's Nursery, a previous well respected fresh cut flower business specializing in roses.

The property that is home to Solis Winery was originally founded as a winery in 1917 by Alfonso Bertero an Italian immigrant. Mr. Bertero was successful in keeping his winery open during prohibition...we don't ask how...we are just happy he was successful...and within his family until 1970. He then sold it to a group of investors who named the winery Summerhill Vineyard. The winery went bankrupt in the early 1980's leaving the land and business for sale but in foreclosure.

Five acres down from the Summerhill Vineyard was Vanni's Nursery a family business that started in the 1940's spanning over two generations. The bank approached Dave Vanni, the owner of Vanni Nursery and asked if he would like to purchase the property. Dave thought it would be fun to have a winery as a hobby. In 1989, Dave and his wife Valerie purchased the winery and renamed it Solis Winery. They chose the name Solis after the Rancho de Solis Mexican land grant for the area. Dave and Valerie were able to purchase the other five acres between Vanni nursery and the winery property providing over fifteen acres of contiguous property.

Dave and Valerie with the help of their two young sons Mike and Vic enjoyed tilling the soil and planting grapes. The Vannis passion for winemaking was shared with their sons. Vic retired from the winery, but Mike and his wife Julie made it their lives' work.

Mike Vanni grew up in the house that is on the property. In the mid 1980's at age 9 Mike planted the grapevines that now provide the grapes for Solis Winery. In the early 1990's Mike went away to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. It is there that he met the love of his life; his wife Julie who became his partner in running Solis Winery and the mother of their three children.

When Mike returned home after graduating from college in the mid 1990's, he was ready to take on the family business; Vanni's Nursery. However, within a few years closing the nursery become inevitable. This was a big moment for Mike as his professional path was to follow in his family's footsteps of running the nursery. "There is a lot of history following tradition," shared Mike Vanni.

It did not occur to him that their winery, a hobby for the past decade, would soon become his new career. But that is exactly what happened. In 2000, Mike began as an apprentice working with a wine consultant for about five to six years. He learned how to make wine from the grapes he planted as a child on his family's property. After his apprenticeship, Mike began as the wine-

maker for his family's winery, Solis Winery.

Julie shared, "Mike continues to make wine in a traditional vintage way – consistent estate wine making techniques - simply with old world traditions – with a few new world techniques."

"I love tasting the merlot...it smells like the vineyard did when I was growing up...I can smell the dust...the earth," said Mike Vanni, "It represents great memories and I feel connected."

Solis Winery won Double Gold, Cabernet Sauvignon, 2017, Double Gold, Grenache, 2017 and Gold, Baciemi, 2017 in the 2021 San Francisco Chronicle Wine Competition among other awards. Solis is also known for its varietals like their Sangiovese and blends like their Syrah. "All the customers have their favorites," shared Julie.

Mike and Julie's three children are in their early and mid-twenties living in Gilroy working jobs outside the vineyard. Mike and Julie shared, "All our kids have a strong work ethic." The Solis family winery will be there for them if they choose to continue with the tradition.

"Solis Winery customers are excited to be back, there is a lot of energy," shared Mike. "Being closed due to COVID really showed us how loyal, kind and supportive our customers are; we have so many strong relationships with our customers – we need them, and they need us – there is a strong and healthy synergy." Mike shared. "We have customers that have been coming here for over 30 years...we need to be open to serve as a gathering place for our community."

"I love Gilroy," shared Mike, "Solis Winery is home base. We will stay here and keep Solis Winery in the family."

Solis Winery

3920 Hecker Pass Highway (CA 152)

Gilroy, CA 95020

SolisWinery.com

Phone: 408-847-6306

Email: solis@soliswinery.com

Editor's Note: Solis Winery has music events which are shown on their website: http://www.soliswinery.com/news_events



Mike and Julie Vanni relax in the vineyard.



The Vanni Family – Dave and Valerie in the middle, Mike on the left and Julie on the right with their three children.



Above left: Circa 1984 – Dave Vanni with his three sons planting chardonnay– current Solis Owner Mike is sitting. Above right: Father & Son – Dave and Mike Vanni in the cellar.



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San Jose councilmember Mahan opposes extending Valley Water's ballot measure

By Times staff writers

San Jose Councilmember **Matt Mahan** (pictured) introduced a resolution at City Council this week opposing Valley Water's ballot measure, which would allow members to serve four consecutive four-year terms instead of three.

Mahan, a mayoral candidate, says the ballot measure's language is misleading and the cost of the ballot measure will waste millions in taxpayer dollars.

"The ballot measure does absolutely nothing to address the real problems we face around water—namely that we're in the most significant drought in recorded California history," Mahan said.

Valley Water estimated putting this measure on the ballot will cost about \$3.2 million—another concern for Mahan, who is currently campaigning for mayor on a platform that emphasizes cutting back wasteful government spending. He noted residents in his district are



so worried about water rates his office started a community working group to address this issue. He said the money going toward the ballot measure could be used to help hundreds of ratepayers.

"That's well over 1,000 lawn conversions to drought tolerant plants," Mahan said. "According to the average amount of water bill

debt San Joseans have, that's 6,000 families whose debts could be relieved."

Gov. Gavin Newsom has ordered water agencies around the state to impose stronger water conservation rules as the state descends into another year of severe drought. Water conservation has been a serious problem in San Jose,

where local officials imposed a 15% water use reduction on residents last year.

Last month, Valley Water's board of directors voted 4-3 to put the measure on the June 7 primary election ballot. According to its proponents, the measure will help the board retain experienced members and provide greater continuity of vision on long-term projects. The district oversees dams, reservoirs and water treatment plants in Santa Clara County.

Valley Water CEO Rick Callender said in a statement that the nearly century-old agency is facing unprecedented challenges to the region's water supply, including drought, rising sea levels and the loss of the Sierra snowpack.

"Directors believe allowing voters to extend term limits would give the board consistent leadership overseeing complex projects, and potentially save hundreds of millions of dollars due to changes and delays," Callender said.



Federal funding grows for Silicon Valley BART Phase II

President Biden will allocate an additional \$200 million for the Silicon Valley BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) Extension Phase II in his upcoming proposed budget.

The project will extend the Silicon Valley BART alignment from the North San Jose Berryessa station through downtown San Jose to Santa Clara, adding four more stations and six more miles of track, including an innovative single bore tunnel under downtown San Jose.

This is the third allocation under the federal Expedited Project Delivery Pilot Program. The FTA announced a commitment of \$125 million in August 2019 and then another \$100 million was committed in January 2021.

"The President's commitment so far to allocate \$425 million is great news in the overall commitment to fund the federal share of the project," said VTA Board Chair Chappie Jones.

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Santa Clara County
PUBLIC HEALTH

Times Feature

Get your tax refund faster by avoiding six commonly overlooked mistakes

With the April 18 deadline coming up for most tax filers, there are a few ways to get your refund as soon as possible, including filing electronically and avoiding errors in your return, such as typos or incorrectly reporting your income.

If you file electronically, most refunds will be delivered within 21 days. But if you mail a paper return to the IRS, it can take up to eight weeks to process.

Aside from the way you file, you'll also want to make sure that what you file is done correctly. With that in mind, here are six common errors to avoid, from tax experts and the IRS itself.

1. Use the best filing status

Taxpayers choose between five filing statuses: single, married filing jointly, married filing separately, head of household and qualifying widow or widower with dependent children.

Your filing status can affect how much you pay, and while multiple different statuses may be allowed for your situation, one could result in a higher tax burden. Use this tool to determine the filing status that results "in the lowest amount of tax," according to the IRS.

2. Correctly claim a dependent

A dependent can be either a qualifying child or a qualifying relative, and comes with tax breaks that can lower how much you owe. But it can be confusing to know whether you can claim certain people as dependents.

For example, divorced parents may both try to claim their child, even though two people cannot claim the same dependent. In that case, "there's going to be a problem," says Riley Adams, a certified public accountant who runs Young and the Invested, a website focused on financial literacy.

Before claiming a dependent, make sure that they actually qualify for that tax status and that no one else in the household is claiming them. If you're not sure if someone in your household qualifies as a dependent, this questionnaire-based IRS tool can help you figure it out.

3. Answer the virtual currency question accurately

Near the top of your Form 1040 or Form 1040-SR, you'll see this question about virtual currencies: "At any time during 2021, did you receive, sell, exchange, or otherwise dispose of any financial interest in any virtual currency?"

The language of this question has confused taxpayers in the past, Adams says. But what it's asking is simple: You should check "yes" on the form if you sold cryptocurrencies, exchanged one cryptocurrency for another, used crypto to buy something or received it as payment, says Adams.

"If you didn't sell it or exchange it, or if you transfer it to your digital wallet, you don't have to click 'yes' on this," he adds.

4. Report all taxable income

Underreporting income may lead to penalties and interest, so it's best to get the amount right before you file.

Don't forget to include income from free-



lance work, not just the amount on the W-2 form provided by your main employer. Employers will typically send freelancers a Form 1099 that includes the amount they were paid.

Keep in mind that employers aren't legally obligated to report your earnings to the IRS unless the amount paid exceeds \$600, but they sometimes still do, says Adams. For that reason, you should report all your freelance income, no matter how small.

5. Remember that your unemployment benefits are taxed, too

Unfortunately, many people are surprised to learn that their unemployment benefits are taxed as ordinary income. A special law exempted some of this tax in 2020, but that was for a limited time and does not apply to 2021 tax returns.

You should report any unemployment compensation that you received in 2021 on your tax return under "Additional Income." If you're using tax software, you'll be asked about your unemployment income and that information will be added for you.

6. Double-check the names and numbers in your tax return

This one is obvious, but a simple typo can hold up your tax return for weeks. Make sure you've correctly entered crucial identifying information like your Social Security number, date of birth and routing numbers if you're using direct deposit to receive your refund.

"The beauty of the electronic filing is if you've got a misspelling of your name or an incorrect Social Security number, the IRS will kick that back to you pretty quickly, letting you know there's an error," says Adams.

If your adjusted gross income is \$73,000 or less, you can use IRS Free File, which gives you access to commercial tax prep software at no charge. It uses a question-and-answer format that's easy to follow, and can flag errors.

Once you file your return, you can check your refund status with the "Where's My Refund?" online tool or through the IRS2Go app.

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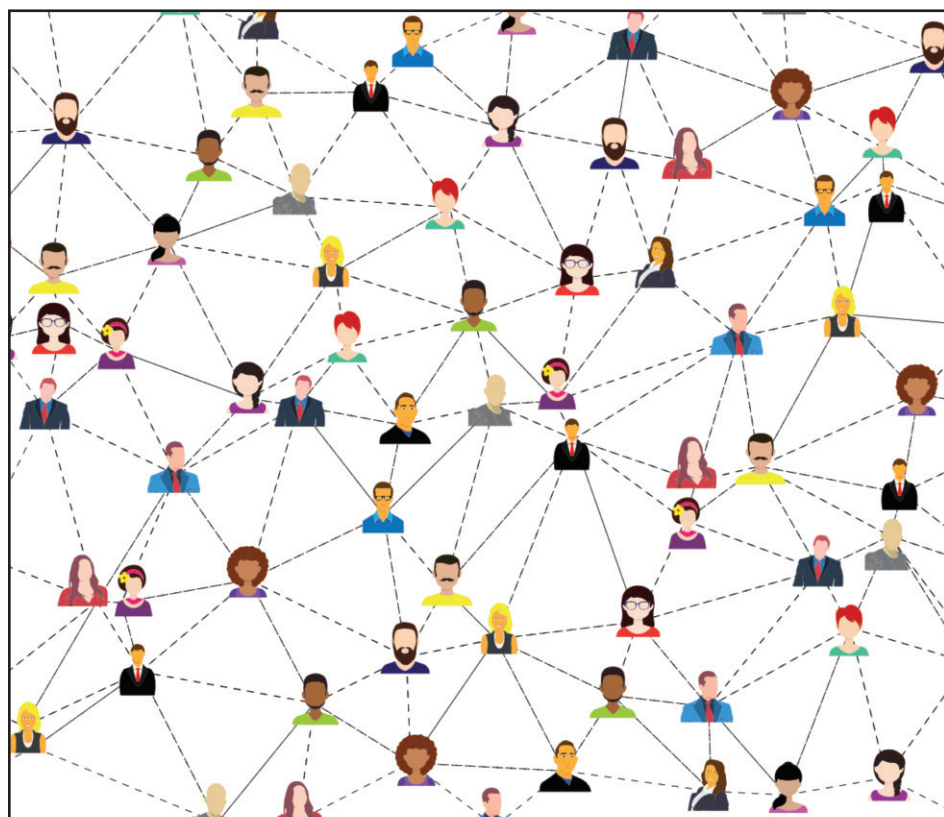
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Photos: Conductor **Anthony Quartuccio**. Cellist **Jiaxun Yao**. Photos courtesy of the artists and San José Chamber Orchestra.

San José Chamber Orchestra's 30th Anniversary Season presents 'Eine Klein(e) Evening of Music'

*Season concludes
with three new works*

San José Chamber Orchestra presents "Eine Klein(e) Evening of Music" Saturday, May 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Francis Episcopal Church, 1205 Pine Avenue, San José.

This program features cellist Jiaxun Yao, an up and coming artist and winner from the 2020 Irving M. Klein International String Competition. Founded in 1985, it is recognized as one of the world's leading competitions for young string musicians. Open to string players ages fifteen to twenty-three, the competition takes place every June in San Francisco, California.

The program

"Eine Klein(e) Evening of Music" features the beloved Concerto for Cello by Robert

Schumann, with soloist Jiaxun Yao. Premiere of three short new works by local composers, written as part of SJCO's Responseworks Commissioning Project: Cycles by Kendrick Tri Huynh, Refuge by Kerry Lewis and Doom, Gloom and Zoom by Mona Lyn Reese, featuring Philip Brezina on fiddle.

Conductor: Anthony Quartuccio; Cello soloist: Jiaxun Yao.

The San José Chamber Orchestra was founded in 1991 out of the desire of local musicians (at the time playing with Opera San José) for an opportunity to play chamber orchestra repertoire and explore music written by living composers. More Info: <https://sjco.org/about/>

Tickets: sjco.org or 408 295-4416 (Tickets also available at the door)

Single Ticket Prices: Adult: \$50, Senior (62 and above): \$45, Student: \$15.

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Times **Arts**

Teresa Castillo stars as Maria and **Noah Stewart** appears as Tony in Opera San José's company debut of Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim's "West Side Story" (April 16-May 1, 2022) at the California Theatre in San Jose. *Photo Credit: David Allen*

Opera San José concludes season with West Side Story April 16 – May 1, 2022

*Presented live at
The California Theatre*

Opera San José will close its 2021–2022 season with *West Side Story*, Arthur Laurents, Leonard Bernstein, Stephen Sondheim, and Jerome Robbins's classic American tale of two star-crossed lovers and the prejudices that keep them apart.

West Side Story will be sung in English, with English and Spanish supertitles, with performances April 16 – May 1, 2022 at the California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street, San Jose.

Bursting with passion, humor, vibrant dancing, and some of the most memorable music ever written, this stunning production of *West Side Story* — the company's first-ever musical — will be conducted by Christopher James Ray, staged by director Crystal Manich, and choreographed by Michael Pappalardo.

Acclaimed singers from across the U.S. have been cast to bring the leading roles to life, including soprano Teresa Castillo as Maria, tenor Noah Stewart as Tony, mezzo-soprano Natalie Rose Havens as Anita, baritone Trevor Martin as Riff, tenor Jared V. Esguerra as Chino, baritone Antony Sanchez as Bernardo, and Philip Skinner as Doc.

"*West Side Story* is one of America's most important works; it absolutely belongs on our stage. Our job is to promote not only promising new talent and incubating new artists, but also to amplify American works, particularly those which speak to our current societal issues," says General Director Shawna Lucey. "The musical gestures of *West Side Story* are grand, perfectly suited to the operatic stage, where we can bring them to life with outstanding voices and orchestration."

Inspired by Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, *West Side Story* is one of America's most iconic musical works, conceived by Jerome Robbins with soaring music by Leonard Bernstein, inventive lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and a book by Arthur Laurents that is by turns witty, funny, and heart-wrenching. Opera San José's produc-

tion will feature the original book and music, with the incandescent music performed by some of America's brightest young operatic singers.

Puerto Rican born, Emmy Award nominated director Crystal Manich, who first watched the film version at age 12 and has been a fan ever since, says, "At its core, I have always believed that the show could benefit from a Puerto Rican director, infusing other cultural elements that are not on the page. Opera San José has given me the opportunity to finally tackle the show that I have been waiting to direct for almost 30 years. It is a show that deserves to be reexamined, in the same way that I examined the film as an adolescent: over and over again."

A breakthrough work in American theatre, *West Side Story* exposes the gritty rivalry between two teenage street gangs, the US-born "Jets" and the newly transplanted Puerto Rican "Sharks," competing for supremacy in the streets of New York City. When a young man falls for the younger sister of his archrival, their forbidden love turns to tragedy.

The original 1957 Broadway production, conceived, directed, and choreographed by Robbins, marked Sondheim's Broadway debut, and ran for 732 performances. It was nominated for six Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and won two, losing the top prize to its blockbuster competition that year, *The Music Man*. A 1961 musical film adaptation of *West Side Story*, co-directed by Robert Wise and Robbins, was nominated for 11 Academy Awards and won 10, including Best Picture.

For more information or to purchase tickets (\$55–\$195), visit operasj.org or call (408) 437-4450 (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm). Vaccination requirements are subject to change according to local city, state, and county mandates and OSJ health and safety policies. Please visit Opera San José's COVID-19 safety and health protocols for the most up-to-date information concerning COVID protocols: operasj.org/health-and-safety/.

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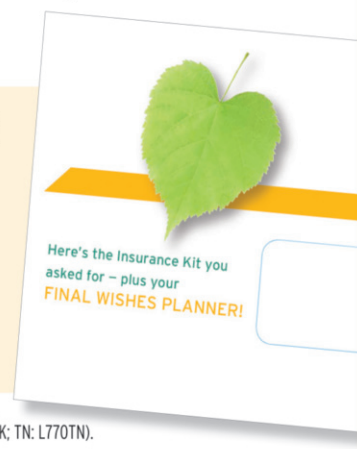
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Times **Feature**

2022 Lexus IS 500 F Sport hits the road running

By Sean Eastwood

Times Media staff writer

The new 2022 Lexus IS 500 F Sport Performance is a formidable V8-powered, rear-wheel-drive small luxury sedan.

Actually the new IS model fulfills buyers needing an upscale comfortable and capable sport sedan.

This top-performing model features the same non-turbo V8 engine as its siblings, the LC 500 and the RC F coupes with an impressive 472 horsepower. Key features include a sport-tuned adaptive suspension, Torsen limited-slip differential, larger brakes and 19-inch Enkei wheels fitted with updated performance tires.

The IS 500 F Sport looks similar to the Lexus lineup, but scoots quickly with its impressive V-8 accelerating the sedan from zero to 60 miles per hour in 4.4 seconds; better than many larger luxury sedans.

Lexus vehicles are always chock-full of standard equipment. The base model IS 500 follows tradition, with an impressive variety of stuff, adaptive sport suspension a heated and power-adjustable steering wheel to simulated leather upholstery to front and rear parking sensors with automatic braking.

Safety also gets priority treatment via automatic emergency braking, lane departure mitigation, a lane-keeping system, adaptive cruise control and a blind-spot monitor with rear cross-traffic alert.

The reviewed Performance Premium trim adds upgraded LED headlights, a 10.3-inch touchscreen display navigation system, 17-speaker Mark Levinson audio system, a 360-degree camera system and a power rear sunshade. It also has Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, satellite radio, and connected services including Wi-Fi access, and Amazon Alexa integrations are all in the mix. And so is the signature Lexis touchpad. It once was a slick new feature. Now it's dated and cumbersome. The electric brake lever also needs a new location. It's hidden in the lower right-hand corner position below the steering wheel.

How does the new Lexus drive? Driving the new Lexus further defines the upscale carmaker's status. The IS 500 offers a smooth, comfortable ride thanks to its adaptive suspension which provides the sport sedan's maneuvering ability which adds to its driving fun to drive characteristics. The LS 500 sports nice looking quad exhaust tips and a spoiler. The engine's growl will appeal to those who enjoy the sound of throat-clearing.

The Lexus offers the IS 500 F Sport with prices ranging from \$56,500 (Base) to \$67,400 (Launch) not including a destination charge of \$1,075.

The new Lexus is a legitimate contender and offers car buyers an excellent choice in the luxury performance category.

The IS 500 offers a smooth, comfortable ride thanks to its adaptive suspension which provides the sport sedan's maneuvering ability which adds to its driving fun to drive characteristics.



The new 2022 Lexus IS 500 F Sport Performance is a top rival to luxury sedan stalwarts with its impressive 472 horsepower V-8.

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For more information, please call or visit us at the Parish Mission Center open M-F 9:00 AM -12:00 PM; 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Come join us and share your presence with us so that together we may grow and share our gifts to help build God's Kingdom!

For Worship listing ads, call 408.483-5458

The Almaden Senior Association members are a diverse group of enthusiastic, active, 50+ adults who enjoy new learning opportunities, new experiences, and new adventures.

Membership in the Almaden Senior Association offers discounts and opportunities to enjoy . . .

- exercise classes for all levels of ability;
- lunches and other social programs

organized and run by members of the Association;

- book clubs, cooking, computer and photography classes;
- trips to local and not so local places of interest such as the Steinbeck Museum in Salinas, Whale Watching in Monterey, casino trips and more.

As a member you're encouraged to help plan these activities and suggest new ones to enjoy. The Senior Association Philanthropy Program set up a process to donate funds to other non-profit organizations that reflect our mission.

Connected

We enjoy meeting new people, making new connections and getting involved. All volunteer opportunities are based on your time and energy commitment. Fees for classes, trips and social events are kept low because of senior volunteer participation and membership strength.

Stop by the main desk at the Almaden Community Center and ask for an application today. Yearly dues of \$10 are returned to you by discounts to most of the programs you participate in.

Join us today, meet new people and get involved with classes and programs that will enhance your life and open new doors.

**For more information, go to www.almadenseniors.org
Contact via email: alamadenseniors1@gmail.com**



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Driver Training is the behind the wheel training which prepares your child to pass the driving test at the DMV. We also offer complete programs for adults and senior citizens. If you have never driven or just need some supplemental instruction to improve your driving skills, we are just the school for you! We believe Advantage Driving School offers a great combination of experienced driving instructors and affordable prices!

Location: 5440 Thornwood Drive, Suite F;

Hours: 9 am-5 pm M-F 9 am-12 noon S-S; Phone: 408.363.4182; Email: info@advantagedriversed.com | Website: advantagedriversed.com

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CINNABAR

Almaden Valley



Unbridled elegance in this architectural masterpiece with private driveway and wooded views. This stunning custom estate showcases an open floorplan celebrating indoor/outdoor living. Outdoor entertaining with complete built-in kitchen and patios, solar heated infinity pool & spa with waterfall feature. Two-story foyer with a grand imperial-style staircase. A formal living room with fireplace, wine bar, and Juliet balconies. Expansive family room, gourmet kitchen with multiple prep stations and island, and sliding doors to the outside. Executive office and gym area. Top Almaden Schools: Graystone, Bret Harte, Leland.

More Photos and Full Video Available at AlmadenValleyRealEstate.com



The Swan has been the #1 Agent in Almaden Valley each year for the last 13 years as measured by Dollars per Agent Per Year. And 2021 was no exception. She is the only Almaden Valley specialist to have been nationally ranked and recognized twice by The Wall Street Journal/RealTrends for being in the Top 250 Agents in the US. Additionally, Swan is consistently among the Top 100 Agents in the SF Bay Area.

If you are thinking of selling your home, now is the time to start planning. Call me as soon as possible.

Therese Swan

408.656.8240

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